

## CASTRO ACCUSED OF "GIGANTIC HOLD-UP"

Colonel Backus, Who Negotiated for Asphalt Property, Tells His Story.

Colonel Victor M. Backus, of Indianapolis, is one of the most important witnesses in the Venezuelan asphalt controversy. He was the confidential man sent to Caracas by the asphalt company at the first sign of Castro's hostility, to find out exactly what was going on. His story is almost in possession of the State Department, and will probably become public in full when Congress gets from the President the full details of the asphalt controversy, as it may do any day.

Colonel Backus says that he represented himself as the attorney of asphalt interests who wanted to buy mines in Venezuela, and as he appeared to have plenty of money, it was not long before he got into negotiations with the government ring in Caracas. This ring had an asphalt claim called "La Venezuela." Men close to President Castro had already negotiated this claim to the New York and Bermudez Company for \$300,000 down and a royalty. Colonel Backus opened up negotiations to purchase this claim through Senor Areola, a foster brother of Mrs. Castro; Senor Figueroa, and General Barret de Nazario, Mrs. Castro's secretary. Here is Colonel Backus' story of his negotiations at Miraflores, President Castro's palace, as related to a representative of the Indianapolis News:

### Castro Directed the Deal.

"Areola, Nazario, Figueroa and I were in a large room, seated at a table. In an adjoining room was President Castro, and as we talked Areola would explain to the president the story of the asphalt claim. We were in the room for some time, and I was, what we were doing and made figures, and in fact, President Castro appeared to be directing the deal. The upshot of it was, that I agreed to pay \$200,000 for 'La Venezuela' and promised that I would have the money there in thirty days. I had paid some money on the deal and spent a good deal more working it up. In the negotiations I expressed a fear that the courts would sustain the right of Figueroa to 'La Venezuela.' Figueroa told me that he had been instructed to say to me by Areola that the Supreme Court of Venezuela would sustain Figueroa's claim, and there would be no danger in making the purchase. So it was demonstrated to me that Figueroa was really a figurehead in the affair; that the real owners were President Castro and his brothers-in-law and perhaps Nazario.

### Seized by President Castro.

"I went back to New York, and President Castro, as is known, seized the property under an old Spanish law that requires the return of a concession to do certain work and pay certain royalties, and he contended that this law had not been complied with. A receiver was appointed, and the receiver is A. H. Carner (former local manager of the asphalt company) with whom I consulted every day while negotiating with Figueroa and his silent partners, and General Nazario is now the financial agent of the Venezuelan government.

"When I got to New York I saw the capital people and made a full report of all that had been done. I turned in the letters and documents over to De Lancy Nicol, and most of them are now on file at Washington.

### Will Tell More to Congress.

"There is no question but the General Asphalt Company owns the asphalt lake, and that President Castro, General Areola, his brother-in-law, and General Nazario, the financial agent of the government, are attempting a gigantic hold-up. There will be more of this when Congress goes into an investigation, and until that time I do not wish to say anything more."

### GAVE THEM WATCHES.

Rewards of Merit to Star Players at the V. P. I.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)  
BLICKSBURG, Va., January 27.—At a recent meeting of the Athletic Association of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, handsome gold watches were presented to Messrs. C. P. Miles and G. C. Wilson in appreciation of their long and valuable services in the athletics of the Institute. Mr. Miles, familiarly known as "Sally," was the force behind the V. P. I. football team, whose wonderful record astonished the entire athletic contingent of the country. Miles was during his undergraduate life in the Institute closely associated with base-ball and foot-ball interests. He played first base for four years on the "Varsity" team, and made a record that few men attain in the game as amateurs. He was for the same length of time a tackle on the foot-ball team, and saw it through brilliant victories and a few uncontrollable defeats. His day came too soon, however, to claim a playing part in the season of the most brilliant foot-ball effort ever seen in the South. If he did not play, he, nevertheless, contributed the brain power which resulted in the achievement of the glorious victories. No man in the Institute has ever enjoyed a more illustrious career than Miles. His genial, pleasant manner is alone sufficient to attract friends, and that, combined with his matchless manhood, produce a character affable and commanding.

Wilson, the giant, familiarly known as "Pete," is a man of imposing build. He was made for foot-ball, and in that sphere he excels. It is claimed that he has never played against his equal on the gridiron, and only on one occasion has he ever been forced to retire from a game. That time he sustained a blow on the head during a scrimmage, and was for a while unconscious. Wilson was greatly responsible for the work of last season. His presence in the game insured his colleagues with confidence, and whenever he made a lead that led to a success.

Manager Gibbons presided over the meeting, and in a brief but pointed speech made the presentation, and Miles, in his characteristic manner of modesty, accepted his token of esteem with a smile and a bow, while Wilson, somewhat surprised, managed to blush in a school-girl fashion, and almost forgot to reach out his hand for the prize.

The Ashland Road.  
An open letter to the Passenger and Power Company, Richmond, Va., addressed to the president of this corporation:  
Dear Sir:—In view of the construction of the Northside line through Highland Park, could these lines be connected and a car run from Seventh Street out to the Northside terminus and then back to First Street, and vice versa, from First and Broad out to the same terminus and then back to Seventh and Broad, the advantage of this connected system would be considerable. The Highland Park

residents would be in close touch with West Richmond and Brookland Park residents would have no chance to make for Seventh and Broad. Additional facilities of access would increase the population, and that in turn add to the travel on this line.  
Desiring that you will, at any rate, consider the feasibility of this proposition, I am, very truly,  
W. L. K.  
706 North Ave., Burton Heights, Richmond, Va., January 26, 1906.

## First Annual Competitive Exhibition of Art Embroidery and Lace Work

will open March 1st. Cash prizes given for amateur work. For further information, inquire in the Art Department, second floor.

# Miller & Rhoads

## Embroideries Now on 2d Floor.

For greater convenience in handling our increasing business the Embroidery Department has been transferred to the second floor, Sixth Street side, next to the Music Underwear. Our new Embroideries for spring are now in. Beautiful designs—special prices.

## New, Stylish Dress Goods For the Coming Spring

We said a short time ago that it was our opinion greys would be one of the leading shades for spring.

We had such confidence in our own judgment that our spring orders were placed with the mills last fall.

Recent advices from New York say that it's almost impossible to secure any desirable greys for immediate delivery, as the market has been practically sold far ahead.

Some of the beautiful things that came our way are in the Broad Street windows. Have you seen them?

**\$2.25** yard, Novelty Suitings, 55 inches wide. Light and medium greys.

**\$1.50** Vigoreaux Beige, 54 inches wide. Light and medium greys.

**\$1.50** yard, Vigoreaux Panama, in medium and light greys, 54 inches wide.

**\$1.50** Plaid Grey Suitings, in medium and light greys.

**\$1.25** yard, Checked Grey Suitings, 50 inches wide, stylish combinations.

**\$1.00** yard, Checked Suiting, in blue and white, black and white, and grey and white, 50 inches wide.

**\$1.00** yard, Grey Crash Suitings, Grey Plaid Suitings, Mohair Sicilians, Storm Serges, German Henriettes, } **\$1 yd**

**85c** yard, Vigoreaux Beige, light, medium and dark grey, 44 inches wide.

**85c** yard, Fine Batiste, 44 inches wide, all the new spring shades.

**48c** yard, Checked Suitings; some in small and medium checks of black and white—others black and white grounds in medium checks and overplaid of green, red and blue.

## "Fownes" Gloves For Women.

"Think of a concern that's been making gloves for a century.

"Fownes" is a synonym for perfect in the art of glove making, for the Fownes people have made the manufacture of gloves an art.

The "Eugene" is a light-weight Dress Glove, made of soft, elastic skins, two-clasp, Paris point back embroidery; black, white, gray, tan, brown, blue, green, red and purple, per pair..... **\$1.50**

The "Dagmar" is a medium weight Glove, for street wear; black, black with white; also mode and tan, per pair..... **\$1.50**

English Walking Gloves, fine quality leather, out-seams, broad, mannish cut; correct to wear with tailored suits, per pair..... **\$2.00**

## Two Specials in Women's Umbrellas, 69c and 75c each.

We consider them the best values for the prices ever seen in the city. Some people say they're worth a third to one-half more than we ask for them.

26-inch Linen and Silk Corolla, Tape Edge Covered Umbrellas, paragon lock frame, silver and pearl handles, neat case and tassel..... **69c**

Taffeta Covered Umbrellas, in navy, green and blue; good frames, boxwood and firz handles, **75c**

## C B Corsets

New Models for 1906.

The C. B. people make a specialty of high-grade Corsets at low prices.

Their plant is such an immense one, the output of Corsets so large, that the expense of manufacturing has been gotten down to a minimum.

No. 359, of batiste, for medium figures; long hip, low bust, each..... **\$1.50**

No. 355, of batiste, for slender figures; high bust, short hip, trimmed with lace top and bottom..... **\$2.00**

No. 265, of batiste, for medium figures; long hip, with the new high bust..... **\$2.50**

No. 482, of German batiste, for stout figures; long hip, medium bust, trimmed with lace, platinum filling..... **\$2.50**

## Bleached Sheets, 60c

90x90 inches, for large size beds; made of good quality cotton, nicely hemmed. Taking the quality of the cotton, the size of the sheet and the sewing, we consider, in view of the upward tendency of cotton in price, that these sheets cannot be equalled in value at 60c.

## Pillow Cases, 10c each

Six hundred of them, and probably the last that we can offer at this price in the same quality for some time to come. 42x36 inches, and 45x36 inches; bleached cotton, good quality.

## Aluminum Ware in the Kitchen

Lessens half the drudgery of the work, especially when doing your own cooking.

Bright, clean looking utensils, light in weight; food will not burn; even heat all the time. Aluminum has no equal for uses of this kind.

Cheap enough in price, too, considering the fact that the metal will last an ordinary life-time. Each piece made without seams.

Covered Saucepans, 2-quart size, 50c.  
Rice Boilers (double), 2-quart size, \$1.39.  
Pudding Pan, 2-quart size, 48c.  
Roasting Pan, 10x14 inches, 89c.  
Covered Baking Dish, full size, \$1.09.  
Coffee Pot, 2-quart size, \$1.59.

## New Covert Jackets for Women

A Covert Jacket is always "just the thing."—The garments that we've just gotten in are exceptionally natty looking—and the prices—well, we've never had as good values in the store before at the same figures.

**\$3.98** Two styles Covert Jackets at this price—one a loose back, box plaited, trimmed with velvet, green velvet and bright buttons; the other style has a fitted back, supple collar, trimmed with self colored velvet, inlaid strap back and front; worth at least \$5.00.

**\$7.50** Covert Jacket, fitted back, inlaid strap down the front and back; coat collar; regular \$10.00 value.

**\$8.98** Covert Jacket, fitted back, supple collar, trimmed with stitching on collar and shoulder; inlaid strap front and back; regular \$12.98 value.

## Carpets, Druggets and Curtains.

Reduced Prices, But Very Good Values.

The January clean-up in this department has brought prices down on a number of first-class values in Floor Coverings and Draperies.

**85c** a yard for \$1.00 value in Tapestry Brussels Carpet.

**95c** a yard for \$1.35 value in Wilton Velvet Carpets.

**\$22.50** for Body Brussels Druggets, 3x4 yards; regular price \$30.00.

**\$27.50** for Axminster Druggets, 3x4 yards; regular \$35.00 value.

**\$15.00** for Tapestry Brussels Druggets, 3x4 yards; worth \$18.00.

**\$3.50** for Two-Tone Tapestry Curtains, 3 yards long, heavy fringe top and bottom; regular value, \$5.50.

**\$3.98** for odd pairs of Tapestry Curtains; regular price \$6.

**\$4.50** for Green, Self-Colored Portieres, former price \$5.00.

**\$5.00** for Self-Colored Heavy Mercerized Portieres, silk cord; regular price \$10.00.

**Cross Stripe Madras Portieres—**

**\$2.50** value, now **\$1.50**.

**\$3.00** value, now **\$1.98**.

**\$5.75** value, now **\$3.50**.

**\$9.00** value, now **\$6.00**.

**\$5.00** value in a Wool Filled Comfort, French satton **\$3.75**

**Italian Silk Slumber Robes, \$5.50 values..... \$3.75**

**72x84-inch Hammed Crochet Quilts, \$1.00 values..... 89c**

**76x85-inch Hammed Crochet Quilts, \$1.25 values..... \$1.00**

**74x90 Fringed and Cut Corner Crochet Spreads, \$1.50 values..... \$1.25**

**Heavy Satine Covered Comfort, 72x80 inches..... \$2.25**

**\$6.00** Wool Blankets, **\$5.00**

**\$5.00** Wool Blankets, **\$4.25**

**72x75-inch Cotton Filled Comforts, good quality satine covering; \$1.19 values..... \$1.00**

**72x84-inch Cotton Comforts, light and dark colors; special value..... \$1.50**

**Heavy Satine Covered Comfort, 72x80 inches..... \$2.25**

**What a Court Really Is.**

Magistrate Robert Cornell, of New York, has acquired a new and valuable legal definition. An aged but robust negro witness who testified before him the other day wouldn't stop talking when counsel objected, but kept on roaring his testimony.

"Stop!" the Magistrate commanded. "Don't you know you're in court?" "Ya-a-a-sir," replied the negro. "Well, don't you know what a court is?"

"Oh-h-h, ya-a-sir," said the old fellow, with a low bow. "Ya-a-sir, a court is a place which day dispenses with justice!"

## The Newest of the Spring White Goods

You can scarcely mention a piece of imported or domestic White Goods for spring that we haven't got in stock.

The showing this year is the most complete we've ever had, and the retail prices are in many cases less than the prices asked by the mills to-day.

We placed our orders eight or nine months ago—a little forethought and belief on our part that cotton was going higher.

## Glasgow Linen Finish Suiting, 12½c

The "Glasgow" finish stands head and shoulders above all other linen-finish Cottons that are made.

You'll always know the Glasgow by its trade-mark, a "Q."

Strong round-thread fabric for ladies' dresses, nurses' costumes, boys' suits and girls' dresses. A cotton that looks like linen, wears like linen—but doesn't cost like linen, yard..... **12½c**

French Lawns, 45 inches wide—15c yard for the usual 35c grade. 25c yard for the usual 35c grade. 35c yard for the usual 50c grade.

One of the most popular plain sheer fabrics of the season is French Lawn.

The prices we quote above are our present retail prices, compared with what the Lawns would be if purchased at the mill now.

**White Madras, 12½c**

Forty different styles and patterns of the best Madras and Oxford we have ever sold for 12½c. Neat dots to large floral designs.

## White Linens for Suits and Dresses

Linens are advancing in price every day. The flax supply of the world is never overly large, and the great shortage in the Russian supply last year has sent the price skyward.

We contracted for these Linens months ago, and have saved ourselves from the biggest portion of the advanced prices.

**Linen Lawns, 25c, 39c, 50c, 75c yard.**

**Dress Linen, 19c, 25c, 29c, 39c, 45c, 50c yard.**

**Linen Suiting, 90 inches wide, 79c, 85c, \$1 yard.**

**French Linen Suiting, 25c and 50c yard.**

## Handsomely Tailored Skirts.

New Styles—Finest Materials—Low Prices.

Two especially good values at \$3.98.

One in a Blue or Black Cheviot, box plaited and trimmed with straps and buttons; the other in a seven-gore Brilliantine Skirt, in blue, black and gray; most \$5.00 skirts are not one whit better than these, at..... **\$3.98**

Our five-dollar Skirts must consequently be above the average garment at the price to meet the good value named above.—Well, they are, as you'll find by examination.

Two exceptionally stylish Skirts, one a Black Panama, with plaited panels, the other a 13-gore box plaited Black Cheviot, with tucked panels, each..... **\$5.00**

**Panama Skirts, new style, cut 13 gores, black, only..... \$6.50**

**Panama Skirts, plaited panel front, finished with ball-traps and buttons, each..... \$7.50**

**Panama Skirts, new circular cut, box plaited front, trimmed with straps to form a panel. Another style has a yoke effect, with tucks and straps..... \$10.00**

## Women's and Children's Winter Underwear

It's of the utmost importance that your Underwear should be of just the proper kind and weight during the changeable weather of the next few months.

You can get the garments you need in this store.—Very good values at moderate prices.

**Women's Fleece Lined Cotton Ribbed Vests and Pants, very good value..... 25c**

**Women's Extra Heavy Ribbed Fleece Lined Vests and Pants..... 39c**

**Women's Light-Weight Wool Vests, nicely finished, for..... 85c**

**Women's Light-Weight Fine Ribbed Wool Union Suits..... \$1.50**

**Women's Heavy Fleece Lined Cotton Ribbed Union Suits..... \$1.00**

**Women's Corset Covers, fine ribbed cotton, medium weight, closely woven, nicely made, tape around waist..... 50c**

**E. Z. Ribbed Underbodies for boys and girls; strapped, two rows of buttons, for..... 25c**

**Children's Vests and Pants, ribbed fleece lined cotton..... 25c**

**Demonstration of the 20-Mule-Team Borax and Borax Soap**

The Borax is 8c a half pound.

The Soap is 5c a cake.

With every five cakes sold we give two good size sample cakes free. This borax is absolutely pure.

Our demonstration will show you by test the difference between the pure "20 Mule Team" Borax and the impure stuff that's usually sold.

Borax is a toilet powder preparation, made from pure "20 mule team" borax; 22c a pound, in boxes.

**Held Mrs. Parker Blameless.**

(By Associated Press.)  
NEW YORK, Jan. 27.—A verdict for \$1,663 was returned to-day in the suit brought by the Liverpool and London

and Globe Insurance Company against Mrs. Susan Day Parker. The insurance company sought to recover \$7,000 insurance paid by them to Mrs. Parker for the burning of the yacht Seydlitz. The company paid the defendant \$21,000 insurance, but claimed that this was \$7,000 in excess of what should have been paid. "The jury in rendering its verdict made a statement that they believed Mrs. Parker to have been in no way responsible for the burning of the yacht. Captain Cardiff, formerly in command of the Seydlitz, had testified that he set fire to the yacht by order of Dr. Parker, husband of Mrs. Susan Day Parker.

The hunter was home again. "Any luck?" they asked. "Splendid!" he exclaimed, radiantly. "I didn't kill a single person."—Worcester Telegram.

**TEN YEARS IN PRISON FOR SLOCUM'S CAPTAIN**

(By Associated Press.)  
NEW YORK, Jan. 27.—Captain William H. Van Cleave was today found guilty of criminal negligence in failing to have drills on the steamer General Slocum, which he commanded in June, 1904, when that steamer burned with the loss of over 2,000 lives. He was immediately sentenced to ten years' imprisonment by Judge Thomas, of the United States district court. The jury disagreed as to two other counts in which he was charged with criminal negligence by the employment of life preservers of poor quality on the steamer.

**Books in Sets**

Shakespeare is a favorite with practically everybody.

14-volume sets, fine cloth binding, \$3.98.

13-volume sets, bound similar to the 14-volume set, \$3.48.

5-volume sets, in fine leather binding—a little gem—\$5.00.

13-volume set, bound in red leather; excellent value, \$15.80.

Macaulay's Essays and Poems, bound in cloth, gilt top (illustrated); 3 volumes, per set, \$1.75.

Macaulay's History of England, 5 volumes, per set, \$2.25.

Thackeray.....

16-volume set, \$4.75.

15-volume sets, finely bound; usual price \$18.00 to \$20.00, our price \$10.25.

Balzac, 15 volumes, Saintsbury text, \$10.25.

Scott, 15 volumes, very good value, \$5.98.

Bulwer Lytton, 13 volumes, best English cloth, \$9.75.

—Boy's Books Reduced—

Aesop's Fables, Spangled Banner, Under the Sea, The Sea, Life of Lafayette, Arabian Nights, Tales from Shakespeare, Gulliver's Travels, Pilgrim's Progress, Large Golden Book of Fairy Stories; former price 75c, now

**48c**